(b) if so, the nature and reasons for this scrutiny;

(c) whether it is also a fact that increasing number of accidents has caused worry all over the country; and

(d) the steps proposed to reduce accidents and improve functioning of the ailways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Dose not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The number of consequential train accidents has decreased consistently from 415 in 2001-02 to 177 in 2008-09. In the current year also, during April to 30th November 2009, the number of consequential train accidents decreased to 102 from 177 during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and all possible measures are being taken to prevent accidents which include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for up-gradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signalling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result, there has been a declining trend in the number of consequential train accidents as stated above.

**Plan for mobilization of financial resources**

1819. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's plan for financial resource mobilization by using surplus railways land includes use of such lands for creating industrial and manufacturing facilities in consultation with State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Railways have planned to utilise its vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, etc. Consultation with State Governments is done wherever required.

**Utilization of surplus railway land**

1820. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to utilize surplus railway land for mobilizing additional financial resources;

(b) if so, the details and financial projections thereof;

(c) the details of surplus railway land available, State-wise and location-wise;